IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method of processing bit mapped image data representing the intensity of each of a plurality of pixels forming an image of an area of an individual's retina including the optic disk to generate a signal pattern to verify the identity of the individual, comprising:

finding a boundary of the optic disk in the image represented by said pixel data;

generating a signal pattern representing the intensity of pixels having a predetermined relationship with respect to the boundary of the optic disk; and

comparing the generated signal pattern to a stored signal pattern to verify the identity of the individual.

2. (Original) A method of processing data representing an image of a retina including the optic disk as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of finding the optic disk boundary includes fitting an ellipse onto the optic disk image represented by said pixel data.

Cancel claims 3-12.

13. (Original) A method of processing bit mapped image data representing the intensity of each of a plurality of pixels forming an image of an area of an individual's retina including the optic disk to generate a signal pattern to verify the identity of the individual, comprising:

determining a location of the optic disk in the image from said pixel data;

fitting a contour approximating a shape of at least a portion of the optic disk onto the image of the optic disk represented by said pixel data; and

generating a signal pattern representing an average intensity of the pixels at a plurality of positions determined with respect to said contour.

14. (Original) A method of processing data representing an image of a retina including the optic disk as recited in claim 13 wherein the contour is a portion of an ellipse.

Cancel claim 15.

16. (Original) A method of processing data representing an image of a retina including the optic disk as recited in claim 13 further including the step of comparing the generated signal pattern to a stored signal pattern to verify the identity of the individual.

Cancel claims 17-43.